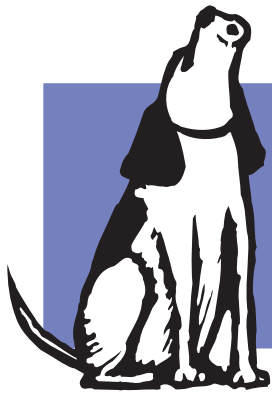


SEATTLE ANIMAL SHELTER

FALL 2004



# the HOWLER



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Officer Dave Goldberg visits a SAS orphan, eager for permanent - and cozier - digs

## FORMER SAS CAT SLAIN INTENTIONALLY SAS INVESTIGATES AND \$5500 REWARD IS POSTED

By Penelope V. Kern  
Co-Leader, SAS Anti-Cruelty Team

Tara Housden was walking down her boat dock at Fisherman's Terminal toward the shower facilities with a bar of soap and towel in hand when she spotted Officer David Goldberg's Seattle Animal Control truck turning around in the parking lot. She quickened her pace, approached his truck, and knocked on the driver's side window. Goldberg hit his breaks and killed the engine.

"Have you seen a long-haired black cat?" Housden asked.

"Are you Tara Housden?" Goldberg replied. Housden answered yes, and that's when Goldberg, who had come to Fisherman's Terminal looking for her, broke the news. Someone had intentionally killed her cat, had thrown it into the water with a noose around its neck, weighted with a heavy C-clamp.

The cat's body had surfaced on the other side of the ship canal next to a dock at the 5200 block of Shilshole Ave. NW, and a dock worker had pulled it out with a net late that afternoon,

August 10. Goldberg and Seattle Police were called to the scene. The officers collected information, and Goldberg scanned the cat's body for a microchip. As it turned out, the cat had been adopted from Seattle Animal Shelter by Housden only a year before. So Goldberg headed over to Fisherman's Terminal to deliver the horrifying news. Housden was crushed.

Lady, Housden's cat, a very affectionate 3-year-old female, had gone missing while Housden was in the hospital delivering her baby on the first of August. Housden and her fiancé, who live aboard a 48-foot wooden motor vessel, came home from the hospital on August 2 and discovered only Tiny, their spunky Carolina Yellow Dog, aboard. Lady was nowhere to be found.

Housden, who had desperately missed Lady while she was in the hospital, was alarmed. It wasn't like Lady to take off. Lady rarely even ventured off the boat, except when she ran with Tiny, the dog, to greet Housden and her fiancé

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## SEATTLE animal shelter

Seattle's shelter for homeless and lost and found pets is located at 2061 15th Avenue West—one mile south of the Ballard Bridge.

### HOURS

Tues-Sat: Noon-6 p.m.

Sun: Noon-4 p.m.

### PHONE

(206) 386-PETS (7387)

### WEB SITE

[www.seattleanimalshelter.org](http://www.seattleanimalshelter.org)

# PLEASE SPAY!

## IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS IN SEATTLE, BUT THE PET POPULATION CONTROL FUND IS HERE TO SPAY!

*By Penelope V. Kern, Co-Leader, SAS Anti-Cruelty Team*

If you've ever taken a stroll through Seattle Animal Shelter, one of the first things you've probably noticed is the barking and meowing echoing off the walls. And that's not because there is a shortage of animals awaiting homes. Quite the contrary - it's because Seattle is raining cats and dogs.

The main reason is that many people don't spay and neuter their pets. Visit the shelter at any time - but especially during spring and summer - and you'll find the kennels overflowing with litters of kittens and puppies. And that's not counting those in our 300 overburdened Seattle foster homes.

Why don't people spay and neuter their pets? Some think their pets are too young, but most just haven't gotten around to it. Others, who have littermates as pets, actually believe they won't breed with each other. Then there are those who want to breed their animals for profit or so their children can witness the miracle of birth (as opposed to the tragedy of euthanasia).

But some would alter their pets - if they could afford it. For them, SAS has a solution: The Pet Population Control Fund.

The Fund, established in 1996 and funded entirely through donations, provides free alteration surgery through the Municipal Spay and Neuter Clinic, the only low-cost clinic in King and Snohomish Counties providing services to anyone who needs them. The clinic, adjacent to the shelter, alters pets at reduced cost, but if someone can't afford the \$30 to \$75, the Fund will pick up the tab, no questions asked.

How's that for a deal?

"We ask very few questions, and we work with people one-on-one to get them the help they need. Maybe someone has fallen on hard times or they're on public assistance or are homeless, but they want to get their pet altered. And animals reproduce so abundantly. That's why the fund is so important, because it helps those who otherwise couldn't afford it," says SAS Director Don Jordan.

Dr. Mary Ellen Zoulas, the licensed veterinarian who has run the clinic for 22 years, often sees people who've called to reschedule their pets' surgeries because they don't have the money to pay for it. But during the time taken to save the money, their animals could get pregnant. And that's something the shelter hates to see, so the clinic offers free spay and neuter certificates.



There are also people who don't see the importance of altering their pets or are feeding a neighborhood cat but don't want to take on the financial responsibility of altering the animals.

"That's why the shelter is so full of them," says Zoulas, whose first dog was a puppy left to die, along with his four littermates and mother, in a dumpster years ago, the result of apathy and ignorance. "People don't see the immensity of the problem because they aren't here at the shelter. It is incredible when you consider, particularly with cats, the number of animals born as a result of one animal not being spayed. The problem is much bigger than the cat in your living room; kitten season at the shelter is just overwhelming."

Volunteer Programs Coordinator Christine Titus backs Zoulas' assertion up. "People say they can find homes for the litters born to their pets, but chances are, those animals go unaltered and many become fertile as early as three months of age. Then there are those who are squeamish about neutering male dogs or want their children to witness the miracle of birth. But here, we have to deal with the reality of it!" says Titus.

With unemployment high and the economy in a tailspin, there is even a more desperate need for the support the fund provides. And because studies show a community needs to achieve at least a 70 percent sterilization rate of pet populations to make a dent in the problem, the fund becomes convincingly necessary.

Since January 2001, the shelter performed approximately 1035 free spay and neuters, and from July 1999 to July 2004, around \$62,151 of the fund has been used for surgery fees. Most of the free surgeries have helped pets whose owners lost their jobs, suffered a bout of homelessness, or otherwise ran into hard times. Still, the fund has been underutilized and the shelter has seen more than its fair share of homeless animals. So the shelter wants to get the word out that it can help.

*continued on p.12*

# HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW?

By Deb Cronheim, Team Co-Leader, SAS Anti-Cruelty

So, you've done your research and you're ready for a lifetime commitment to a new family member, something of the furred or feathered persuasion. You know your local shelter exists, somewhere -- but there's a pet store just down the street, the tiny faces in the window are really cute, and you have enough cash. Stop. Before you open your wallet, there are hidden costs Seattle Animal Shelter (SAS) wants you to know about, costs for which there isn't enough money in anyone's bank account.

According to SAS Director Don Jordan, when you purchase an animal from a pet store, you're paying large sums of money for an animal of unknown origin and questionable health; and, perhaps most costly, you're supporting an industry fraught with animal abuse and death. "Puppy mills are the largest suppliers of pet stores," says Jordan, "and the priority for mills and pet stores is profit, not animal health or well-being."

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) reports that mill dogs are frequently caged in squalid conditions and continually bred for years with no human companionship. The breeders are kept alive until their fertility wanes at which time they are commonly killed, abandoned, or sold to another mill. As reported by HSUS, "The annual result of all this breeding is hundreds of thousands of puppies, many with behavior and/or health problems." Similar cruel operations exist for cats and kittens.

And what about snakes, lizards, hamsters, gerbils, birds, and other "pocket pets?" According to Jordan, many of these exotics come from third world countries, and, because most animals die during transport, suppliers ship the animals in large quantities to profit from the few who do survive. "Purchasing these animals from pet stores only supports and perpetuates these cruel practices," says Jordan.

Does this mean you should find a private breeder? "No," cautions Jordan, "Breeders can function just like mills, paying little attention to health and genetics and placing a higher priority on money than on the animals they sell."

If you do decide to go to a breeder, Jordan advises asking lots of questions. Responsible breeders will have nothing to hide

and, if they truly care about their animals, they will be screening you. Ask to see the vet records of the animal you're considering and of its parents. Ask to meet the parents and assess their health and temperaments. Visit and evaluate the environment in which the animal was raised, and never agree to meet at a mutual location to transfer a pet - this is one way bad breeders and puppy mills hide their merciless operations. Remember, newspaper ads and the Internet are often fronts for mills or irresponsible breeders. "Trust your gut," says Jordan, "and, if something feels wrong, it probably is."

If you're still thinking about going to a pet store or breeder, consider pet overpopulation. Millions of healthy and friendly cats, dogs, and other animals are killed each year because there are simply not enough homes for all of them. Why contribute to pet overpopulation when you can be part of the solution and still find the pet that matches your lifestyle?

"You're missing a real opportunity by not going to a shelter," says Jordan. Cats, dogs, guinea pigs, rabbits, snakes, lizards, birds, ferrets, and even the occasional pot-bellied pig are in shelters awaiting their forever families. If you don't find your soul mate on your first visit to SAS, re-visit the shelter and the Web site, and

check other shelters through Petfinder.com. SAS staff can also help you network with breed-specific rescue groups. With a little time and patience, you will be rewarded with a most grateful and well-suited companion.

"Adopting from an animal shelter is also a tremendous value," says Jordan. Not only are the adoption fees lower than the price of animals from most pet stores and breeders, the animals have been screened for health and temperament problems; volunteers and staff have helped to socialize the animals; and the adoption fee includes a license, microchip, vaccinations, and a free visit to a local veterinarian.

And, perhaps the greatest value in finding your new best friend in an animal shelter: the life you save and the space you make for the next hopeful orphan. Now that's a deal you can feel great about!



*Emaciated and diseased Yorkshire Terrier recovered from a puppy mill.*



# SUCCESS!

## DOBBY

### PRACTICALLY PURRFECT IN EVERY WAY

*By Julie Krahn, Volunteer Cat Foster Parent*

Dobby and his siblings, Chloe and Billy, came to Seattle Animal Shelter as orphaned kittens in August 2002. Billy and Chloe were healthy, but little Dobby was limp, skinny, and nearly comatose. In spite of the diligent care of SAS animal care officers and several foster parents, Dobby nearly died on several occasions. No one was sure whether Dobby could be saved. SAS volunteers and staff fought to save him, administering a combination of injected subcutaneous fluids, hyper-alimentation tubes and forced feedings. Still, Dobby failed to grow and thrive.

The SAS shelter staff and the foster care volunteers were gravely concerned about Dobby's quality of life. Were they doing the right thing by saving him, again and again, from death? Would it not be kinder to put him to sleep? The volunteers and animal care officers struggled with the question - and decided that they would persevere to save Dobby's life.

After multiple vet visits and exhaustive lab work, it was determined that Dobby suffered from liver function problems and could only be saved by expensive liver shunt surgery. Despite his excruciating condition and the countless vet appointments and medical treatments he had endured, he remained very sweet and sociable, winning the hearts of everyone who had cared for him. Arlene Geist, Dobby's foster mom at that time, stepped up to advocate for him. Dobby got the surgery he needed, thanks to both the Help the Animals Fund and a special fundraiser organized just for him.

#### Dobby was going to live!

Dobby recovered well from his surgery, and after he recuperated under the care of the SAS foster team, he was adopted. Everyone waited and hoped, but unfortunately, his home was not a good fit. He was the only creature in the house and grew quite lonesome. Perceptive to his sadness, his adoptive family surrendered him back to the shelter.

Naturally, after all the time, heart-wrenching work and

resources invested in Dobby, everyone at SAS was upset that Dobby's adoption wasn't a success. The Foster Care Team rallied to help Dobby once more, and Dobby eventually found his way to dedicated foster care mom Julie Krahn - who was already fostering several other kittens. It was just the medicine Dobby needed.

Under Julie's care, Dobby flourished and became a healthy, well-

adjusted kitten who relished the company of his fellow felines. After a respite, Julie knew that it was Dobby's time to try for a forever home - one more time. So she had his portrait taken by the SAS Digital Photography Team, and they posted his photo and bio on the



*Content and robust, Dobby relaxes in his forever home.*

adoption Web site. And shortly after Dobby's availability made the Web, Julie dressed him up and took him to a Fabulous Felines Adoptathon.

But among all the cats and kittens waiting for someone to adopt them, would Dobby find someone to love him and take him home forever? The competition was stiff!

A couple who had recently lost their 11-year-old cat to feline infectious peritonitis came to the adoptathon to search for a young cat they had seen on the adoption Web site, since they thought he might make a great companion for their remaining cat, Zorro, who had once been an SAS foster cat himself.

The handsome feline they had viewed on the site was a black and brown tabby manx. It was Dobby they were seeking! They had been especially drawn to him not only by his portrait, but because he so loved the company of other cats. They knew Dobby was the one to complete their family.

Dobby now lives in a big Craftsman house in Seattle with his forever family, which includes Zorro and Kramer, his canine pal. He enjoys sitting in the windows that overlook his territory and sleeping on the radiators that offer warmth, on the rare occasions he isn't cuddled up with one of his family or jumping and darting about his house. And he is the picture of robust feline health, with glorious long, white whiskers, sparkling gold eyes and a luxuriant coat.

As his forever family, who cannot imagine their lives without him, says - and after a long fight for happiness and health - Dobby is now "practically perfect in every way."



## MORE SUCCESSES

### HARRY

Harry was brought to SAS after being abandoned, tied up outside of a taco place, skinny and poorly cared for. Like most German shepherds, he fared poorly at the shelter where he was stressed by being confined near so many other dogs with strangers constantly walking by, and he lost even more weight. Benefiting from the shelter's "Help The Animals Fund," Harry got vet care for his poor digestion and to diagnose a limp in his front elbow. The limp was treated with ongoing glucosamine supplements, and when the vet recommended a diet of rice and cottage cheese to help settle his stomach, SAS volunteers kept a steady supply of cheese and rice arriving in tupperware, ziplocks, and take-out containers.

Though lacking good manners, Harry proved to be a sweet, loving dog and with keen intelligence. He excelled in obedience after several sessions with trainer Mike Schmidt. And in foster care, he calmed down, started to eat well, and progressed even more quickly through his obedience lessons.



After less than two weeks in foster, Harry's new family found him on PetFinder.com. He was adopted by Pam and Ed and their little terrier, Lily. Ed had shepherds for 20 years, and despite missing his last shepherd, Ranger, who died of old age last November, he couldn't resist Harry. A couple days later, they were all heading out in

their motor home for a month-long trip to Yellowstone and the surrounding area.

A couple weeks later the photos started to arrive -- Harry and Lily smiling from scenic spots across three states -- along with notes on how much they loved Harry and how well he was doing. Many at SAS miss Harry, but we're happy and proud of him, and maybe just a little envious of his summer vacation.

### ANNIE

#### A TALE OF TWO RABBITS



You've seen rabbits in the parks, apparently having a ball, digging, playing and running around. Thanks to a mild climate and handouts from people, they survive long enough to reproduce. But many of them are discarded pets or their descendents. Annie, for example, was brought to our attention by Alan, a volunteer. He'd noticed two small domestic rabbits in Discovery Park: a spotted one and a white one.

They were friendly enough to take food from peoples' hands, but Alan always had his dog along and wasn't able to approach them. At some point the white rabbit disappeared and only the spotted one remained. Volunteers Anna and Patrick approached the rabbit, picked her up and brought her to Suzanne, a volunteer who fosters rabbits.

Annie, an English Spot, is one of the sweetest rabbits we've met. She's four or five months old at most, which means she was discarded as a baby to fend for herself, and only by chance survived. She was underweight and had a serious wound, but is going to be fine. After she's spayed, she can be adopted to a loving indoor home. She enjoys meeting new people, running around the carpeted hallway and surveying the world from the top of her playhouse. Little Brownie, a youngster, was brought to SAS the same day Annie was rescued. He was found in the Green Lake area, paralyzed and fearful. We don't know how he got injured - he could have been hit by a car, attacked by an animal or a human. A vet exam showed he suffered a broken back and permanent nerve damage. The decision was made to humanely euthanize him.

We're thrilled to have Annie safe. We mourn Brownie and are frustrated that we can't keep up with all the defenseless rabbits abandoned. Dumping an animal off doesn't make it 'free,' and it is illegal. You can help by encouraging people to research before adopting and by supporting the Help the Animals Fund.

If you see anyone abandoning a pet, call SAS immediately at 386-PETS (7387) and report the date, time, location, type of animal and car license number. Your name won't be released if you request confidentiality, though your possible testimony in criminal proceedings is needed to help the authorities protect animals.

# THANK YOU!

Seattle Animal Shelter extends heartfelt thanks to Dog Whisperer Mike Schmidt for the time, talent and effort he directs toward teaching manners to our biggest doggie delinquents. A Boeing engineer by day, Schmidt trains Bremerton Police Department K9's in his off time and volunteers most Sundays to bring a little obedience religion to the toughest cases SAS can produce.

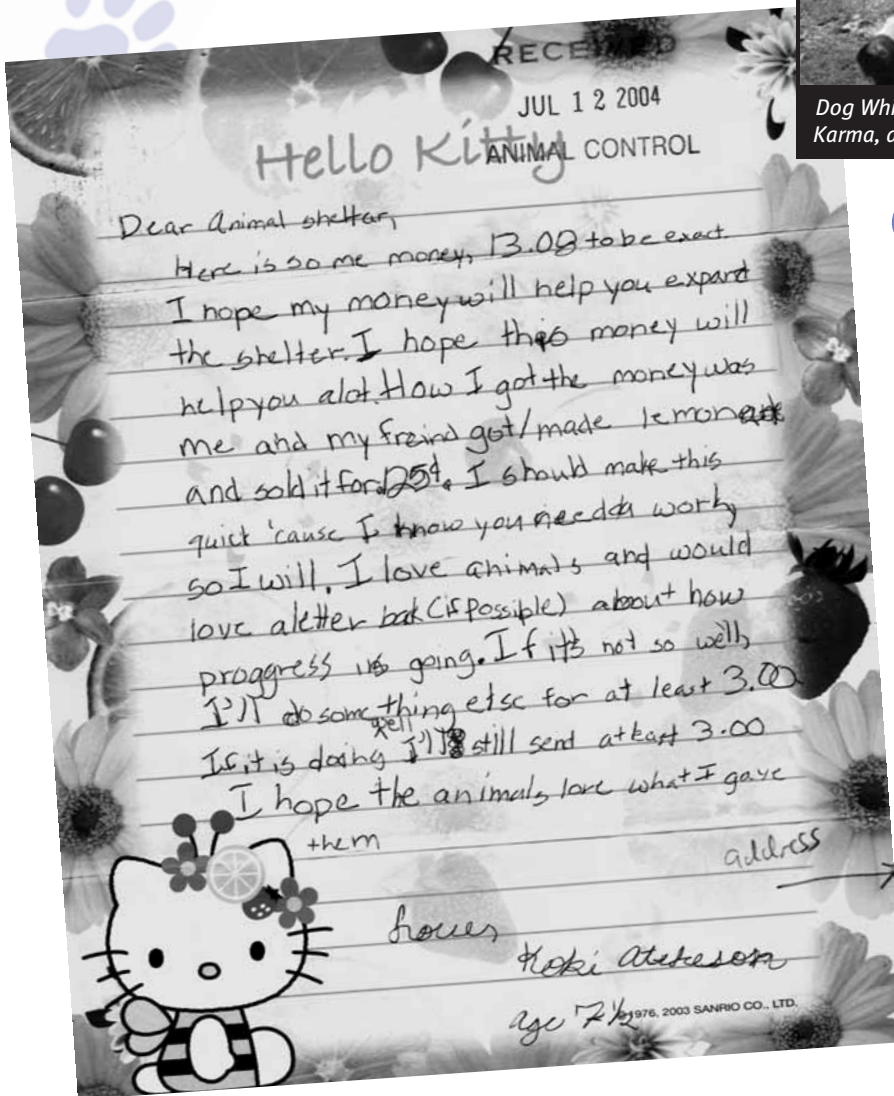
Harry, an SAS German shepherd recently adopted - thanks to Schmidt's magic touch - now lives an idyllic life of motor home travel with his new family. And he's just one example of many SAS big dogs with bad attitudes, who have been instilled with newfound enthusiasm for obedience by Schmidt.

Week after week, Schmidt makes adoption a real possibility for dogs who otherwise wouldn't have had that chance. He spots potential in the slightest progress and coaxes it to mind-blowing

success. SAS volunteers, employees - and most importantly, shelter dogs - are so fortunate to have his help. We are proud to work with him, and we're grateful for his compassion, knowledge, insight and generosity, as well as his endless supply of tips, tricks and bad jokes.



*Dog Whisperer Schmidt tangles with his companion, former SAS dog, Karma, an imposing - and now flawlessly obedient - Belgian Malinois.*



*Youngest SAS benefactor of record pens letter to the Shelter brass, requesting progress reports on the planned expansion.*

## COLD TEMP TIPS

Beware of antifreeze spills. Dogs and cats will drink this highly toxic substance, which can cause kidney failure and death. Clean up spills immediately and store containers away from pets. If you suspect your pet has ingested antifreeze OR ANY OTHER TOXIN call your vet or emergency hospital immediately.

Check your car for heat-seeking kitties. In cold temperatures, cats will look for warm places to sleep, including inside car engines. Before starting your engine, knock on the hood and honk your horn to scare away any napping cats.

Consider bringing pets indoors when temperatures drop. If left outside, make certain all pets have access to weatherproof shelters with good insulation (straw bedding works well). Shelters should be small enough to allow your pets to warm the interior with their body heat, but large enough to allow them to stand, turn and lie down. Adding a flap to the entrance will provide extra protection. Avoid using heat lamps or other home heaters, because they can easily cause fires.

Provide plenty of fresh water for your pets, and change the water daily. Check outdoor bowls for ice, which can prevent pets from getting enough to drink. Heated water bowls can prevent icy buildup.



# HEART TO HEART

*By Christine Titus, SAS Volunteer Programs Coordinator*

I met Mark about two years ago at an SAS volunteer orientation. He approached me afterwards and said, "I am waiting to receive a heart transplant. I know I can't do a lot, but I would really like to work with the animals at the shelter."

I was moved by his situation. Clearly, this was someone who might not live but who wanted to make sure his limited time was spent with the orphans at the shelter. So I told him I would work with him so he could work with the animals. He told me he wouldn't be able to give the dogs exercise but would like to spend time with them in their runs, which sounded great to me. Although our dogs get regular walks, they don't always get one-on-one quiet time, so important for their emotional wellbeing.

Mark was amazing. He would find the saddest dogs, quietly enter their runs, and begin speaking softly to them. They worshipped him. I couldn't tell you exactly how he did it, but he would get the dogs into a Zen-like state. After some time went by, I asked him about the special way he had with the dogs. He told me he understood exactly how they felt. You see, both Mark and the orphans had uncertain futures. Both were holding out hope for better lives. Both felt depressed and helpless. Even though at times the dogs' futures looked better than Mark's, he would reassure them that everything would be okay. He seemed to understand their emotional states better than anyone else.

Over the next five months, Mark's health began to deteriorate. Each day, he grew weaker. One day he entered my office and said, "There isn't as much blood going to my brain, so I am beginning to forget things." While I tried to remain optimistic, this worried me. Would he slowly fade away before a heart arrived for him?

Working at an animal shelter isn't easy -- you deal with life and death every day. I wondered how I would handle it if Mark didn't live. He had been a real inspiration to me, to the animals, and to the staff and volunteers. I always felt grateful for my own life when I was in his presence.

The New Year brought wonderful news. On January 1st, 2003, at 12:01am, Mark received the most generous gift, a new heart. As with all heart transplants, someone had to die for Mark to live. He called me from intensive care two days after the transplant. While he was clearly not completely conscious, he called the shelter to let me know he had made it. We were grateful and elated!

Because his immune system had to be obliterated to receive his new heart, Mark was not able to visit the shelter for several weeks. Slowly but surely, he returned to spend time with the dogs. He wasn't able to go into the kennels, so I would bring him a freshly-bathed dog in a quiet room. Eventually, he was back in the kennels, working his magic.

Now that he had his new heart, he had plans to LIVE! His doctor wrote him a prescription for a dog. He wanted to adopt one but was overwhelmed by the responsibility, not really knowing if he would be well enough to care for a dog. He had been working with an orphan named Jazzy, a small pit bull mix who was perfectly behaved. In fact, she was so perfect no one noticed her. She sat in her kennel for months. Mark visited with her daily and would come to my office and tell me how much he loved her. Finally, I'd had enough, and said, "That's it! You are taking this dog home with you today! Foster her for a week, and, if it doesn't work out, bring her back." I knew she wouldn't be back.

Mark prepared to bring Jazzy home. Needless to say, it was a perfect match! Mark grew stronger and healthier, because Jazzy was now living with him 24/7 and seemed to understand his condition. She would lay across his chest and put her head on his new heart, as if to tell him everything was going to be okay and that she knew what it was like to have a second chance at life. Mark, in turn, took excellent care of Jazzy. I know having her with him each day diminished his focus on his own physical condition.

Mark still volunteers at the shelter, boosting the morale of the saddest dogs and improving their chances for adoption. Now that he is feeling better, he also donates his graphic design skills to a variety of shelter projects.

While I value tremendously each of our volunteers - our shelter couldn't function without them - Mark's experience is especially poignant to me. His relationships with the dogs, and theirs with him, continue to remind me of the tremendous healing power that time, attention, and empathy can have on any life, animal or human. Mark and Jazzy continue to take great care of each other, and I don't worry about either of them now.



*Devout companions, Mark and Jazzy cherish the new leases on life they have given each other.*

# ANTI-CRUELTY



Seattle Animal Shelter

*because every dog deserves a home*

Each winter, outdoor pets face chilling temperatures, rain, wind, and snow, which can cause extreme discomfort, health problems, and, for some, even death. Adequate shelter can be life saving. While Seattle Animal Shelter recommends all pets have regular access to the indoors, in some cases, people feel they must keep their dogs and cats outside. Seattle Animal Shelter's Habitat 4 Hounds helps ensure all pets have first-rate shelter.

Habitat 4 Hounds solicits donations of dog houses and makes them available FREE to anyone who needs a home for their pet, (including cats and any other animals who could use a house). "Some people simply don't realize their pets need shelter, or they may not be able to afford homes for their animals. Habitat 4 Hounds makes it easy for anyone to get good, quality shelter for their pets", says Christine Titus, Volunteer Coordinator. In special cases, SAS humane law enforcement officers will deliver the homes to animals in need.

"Habitat 4 Hounds has been so successful that we always run out of homes," says Titus. That's why SAS is stepping up efforts to ask individuals and businesses in the community for donations.

Houses should be new or in good condition. "Dogloos" are especially desirable because their hard plastic is very durable weather resistant.

Requests for homes from other cities and counties has prompted SAS to help other western Washington shelters launch the same campaign. "It's an easy program to run," says Titus, "and the return is huge - dogs, cats, and other family pets stay warm, dry, and healthy through the winter. Our hope is that this will eventually become a state-wide program."

If you would like to contribute to Habitat 4 Hounds, please bring your donation to Seattle Animal Shelter at 2061 - 15th Avenue West, one mile south of the Ballard Bridge. Dog houses may be placed, 24hrs/day, in the fenced area, just west of the shelter. Look for the bright yellow "DOG HOUSE DROP OFF & PICK UP" banner.

*If you know of pets in need of shelter, please tell the owners they can pick up FREE homes for their pets at Seattle Animal Shelter.*

## GUARDIAN ANGEL DAY

Thank-you to all who contributed to Seattle Animal Shelter's 3rd Annual Guardian Angel Day, held September 18th at Green Lake. This educational event was established to celebrate and protect the animals in our community.

"Animal cruelty is a tough subject, but this event is a really positive way to get the public involved," says volunteer Jen Kozel. "People feel very strongly about abused or neglected animals, and this event is an easy way for them to learn how to help."

Volunteers answered questions and distributed materials to people looking to how they might help distressed animals in their neighborhoods. Before-and-after displays of animal rescue stories illustrated various forms of abuse and neglect and the role SAS plays in animal protection. A woman-and-dog duo in costume, all the way from Woodinville, entertained kids and grown-ups, and, as always, donated baked goods tempted passersby to join the fun. In addition to the live call-ins on KING FM, sponsors funded anti-cruelty public service announcements aired on KING FM and KOMO 1000 News radio stations.

*A big thank-you to Marilyn Tomlin (this event would not exist without you!), Brad Eaton, Fisher Broadcasting, our sponsors (Animal Eye Clinic, Carkeek Park Vet, Mercy Vet, Golem Copy Center, Young Pilates, Bark Natural Pet Care, Smiley Dog, and Barrier Motors), our volunteers, and, of course, the Woodinville duo, for putting up with their itchy costumes!*

If you would like information about animal abuse and neglect, including free educational materials, please contact SAS.

**DON'T ASSUME SOMEONE ELSE WILL REPORT AN ANIMAL IN DISTRESS. IF YOU SEE, SUSPECT, OR HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT ANIMAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT, PLEASE CALL THE SEATTLE ANIMAL SHELTER. ALL CALLS CAN BE MADE CONFIDENTIALLY.**

**ANIMALS CAN'T SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES -- THEY NEED YOUR VOICE! (206) 386-PETS**



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

## FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS NEED MORE NOURISHMENT THAN CHEAP KIBBLE PROVIDES

By Doug R. Yearout, DVM

Can anyone remember, not so long ago, when dogs and cats were fed foods directly from the dinner table? Fresh foodstuffs from farm and market, fresh raw bones and remains from the butcher, and supplemental prey such as mice and rats composed the bulk of their diets. Today, bagged and canned pet foods from the grocery store are the mainstay of their daily intake, the processed pet food market now trades in the millions of dollars annually, and our furry charges are not a bit healthier for it. People think they are doing the right thing for their pets by buying the best processed food, while this actually cuts years from animals' lives. Fortunately, there are alternatives.

There are three main ways to feed dogs and cats. The worst way is lower-quality kibbled dry and canned food. The store-bought, cheaper foods are laden with chemical preservatives and the ingredients are of poor quality and sometimes come from downright awful sources. Roadkill, euthanized animals (replete with flea collars and plastic body bags), rotted slaughterhouse parts, feathers and feces often make it into the rendered meat and bone meal that compose the bulk of the cheaper brands. Then there are the grains that come from discarded brewery mash or middlings left over from cereal makers, and other nutritionally-devoid waste. Old cooking fats from the back doors of restaurants are also thrown in, and these "foodstuffs" are cooked down. Finally, flavor enhancers, sugar and chemical preservatives are added. The final product is bagged, labeled and marketed with catchy slogans to convince us to buy that product.

A better alternative for your pet is more expensive, premium kibbled and canned food, which has better ingredients and is preserved with vitamins C and E, instead of BHT, BHA, and other potentially toxic preservatives. You'll make a huge difference in

your companion's health, but you can still do a much better job by adding fresh raw chopped vegetables and meats, such as turkey, chicken or beef, and lots of raw bones for dogs. A commercially available multi-vitamin and mineral supplement formulated for dogs and cats - or one mixed to your own specifications - will provide additional benefits.

The third - and clearly the most superior way to feed your companion - is to give him a diet composed entirely of fresh, raw chopped vegetables and lean meat, enhanced with a species-specific vitamin and mineral supplement. This is most closely aligned with what would be their diet in the wild. Make sure to include ground whole bonemeal or other source of calcium.

If we strive to feed our pets as nature intended, we will begin to tear down the barriers to maintain and foster true health for our cherished four-legged friends. This, along with wise medical guidance, can help them to lead long, happy lives.

*Douglas R. Yearout, DVM is a Veterinary Naturopath based in Everett, Washington. He can be reached at (425) 334-8171.*



## ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER KILLS!

### WARNING!! XYLITOL

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Sweetener xylitol can be toxic to dogs. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Animal Poison Control Center is warning veterinarians, their staff, and pet owners that the xylitol-a sweetener found in some sugar-free chewing gums, candies, and other products can cause serious-possibly life-threatening problems for dogs. Dogs ingesting large amounts of products sweetened with xylitol may have a sudden drop in blood sugar, resulting depression, loss of coordination, and seizures, according to Dr. Eric K. Dunayer, a consulting veterinarian in clinical toxicology for the poison control center. The center is most concerned about products in which xylitol is the primary ingredient. "These signs can develop quite rapidly, at times less than 30 minutes after ingestion of the product," Dr. Dunayer said in a statement. "Therefore, it is important that pet owners seek veterinary treatment immediately." Some data suggest a link between xylitol ingestion and liver failure in dogs, he said, though those data are insufficient to draw firm conclusions. Dr. Dunayer published a case study on xylitol toxicosis in the April 2004 issue of the journal *Veterinary and Human Toxicology*.

## MARINA CAT SLAYING, CONT FROM P1

as they came home from work or to chase other dock cats away from their boat. Lady was a homebody. So Housden, who had her hands full with a newborn baby, began searching for Lady, spreading word among fellow boat owners at the terminal that her cat was missing. But it was to no avail. Lady had vanished.

When Goldberg delivered the news, not only were Housden and her fiancé upset, they were bewildered. Goldberg asked them the obvious questions: Did they have any enemies? Did they know of anyone who might be capable of doing something so cruel? Housden and her fiancé, feeding the baby when he heard the news, shook their heads. They had no enemies and knew of no one who would have done something so terrible to an animal, let alone Lady, who was very friendly and well liked among the other boat owners.

Tara Housden met Lady on June 13, 2003, when she went to Seattle Animal Shelter to find a feline companion who would enjoy living on a boat with a high-energy dog. Initially, Housden was interested in adopting a Siamese, but there wasn't one in the shelter, so she spent time around all the cats, to see if any of them clicked with her. She sat in the cat adoption room for quite a while, but she didn't feel especially drawn to any of them. Then, from the back of what had appeared to be an empty cage, came a magnetic meow. Huddled in the corner, nearly invisible because of her blackness, was Lady. Housden knew immediately that she had found her cat - or rather, her cat had found her. "Lady picked me. I didn't pick her," Housden said. "That's how cats do - they pick you."

Housden filled out the adoption paperwork after reading the comments written by Lady's previous owner, a woman who surrendered Lady because she hadn't been affectionate enough to meet expectations. That was okay with Housden, though, because she accepted that cats didn't necessarily behave like dogs and couldn't be expected to conform to the rigid expectations of needy humans.

"If a cat likes you, it's a privilege," Housden said. "When you adopt a cat, you kind of agree to be its slave, to feed it, give it whatever it wants, so if the cat really shows that it likes you, then that's an added bonus."

With Lady, Housden and her family got that added bonus. Lady turned out to be very affectionate, not only toward Housden but toward Tiny, who would have driven many cats to distraction with her wired nature, similar to that of an Australian cattle dog. But Lady took a liking to Tiny and sometimes slept, curled tightly into a ball, on top of her. And when Tiny would instigate a chase, Lady would often foil it by turning and rubbing up against the dog's legs, the way cats will sometimes do.

Housden remains deeply troubled by Lady's death and the circumstances surrounding it. She is confused about how the person - or people - managed to catch her cat. Every stranger she sees on the docks becomes a suspect, as do some of the dodgier characters who live at Fisherman's Terminal in neighboring boats. Housden watches people and waits for someone - anyone - to slip up and say something weird or stupid that would hint to his guilt, but so far, that hasn't happened. Housden now also feels unsafe, because the C-clamp and rope used to drown Lady had apparently come from her boat, which means the killer had probably been aboard while she and her husband were in the hospital. She figures the person had been aboard in the dark of night, since during those days, it had been sunny and dry and the other boaters were bustling on the docks, working on their boats, and would have noticed a stranger on deck.

"It makes me very nervous, with a new baby and all," Housden said. And with good reason. Many reputable scientific studies have demonstrated a decisive link between cruelty to animals and violence against humans. Acts of cruelty toward animals by juveniles have been shown to be powerful indicators of future violence against humans. And in one of the most detailed studies of adult criminals in penal institutions, it was found that over 25 percent of aggressive inmates had, during their lives, five or more reported incidents of abject, intentional cruelty to animals, compared to six percent of non-aggressive inmates and none in non-criminals included in the study. So finding Lady's killer, an intensely compelling case merely by merit of the desire to convict and punish the responsible parties, has become even more compelling, in light of this link.

"We're extremely interested in finding the person or people responsible for this blatant act of cruelty, not just for the sake of the cat and her owners, but for the safety of the community as a whole, since acts of violence against animals may be linked to violence against people," said Ann Graves, SAS Enforcement Supervisor.

David Goldberg, the humane law enforcement officer on the case, has strong hope that with dogged persistence, he will find Lady's killer. He also feels that with the \$5500 reward, which has been posted by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Humane Society of the United States, and by the local branch of the Humane Society, for information leading to an arrest and conviction, there is even greater hope that someone may be compelled to come forward.

"We haven't exhausted all our leads yet," Goldberg said. "I see hope - real hope - that we're going to solve this case."

# 2004 FURRY 5K KICKS TAIL

## FIFTH FURRY 5K HITS THE GROUND RUNNING - EVEN FASTER!

*By Greg Ullrich, SAS Furry 5K Race Director*

This year saw the running of the 5th Annual Furry 5K - the cornerstone fundraiser of Seattle Animal Shelter's Help the Animals Fund! Over 2,300 participants, bringing a record 1,400 dogs and one cat, attended the Seward Park event that featured 40 vendors and representatives from Puget Sound area's animal organizations, and over 100 shelter volunteers assured the Furry 5K's success.

This year, for the first time, we showcased some of our foster care program animals. The public met the animals benefiting from the Fund and met the volunteers who provide the love, care, and training that help them become the great pets they all deserve to be.

The enthusiastic yearly support shown by the community inspires the people and organizations behind the Furry 5K. Each year, the Furry 5K continues to establish itself as the premier event supporting Seattle's homeless animals. This success has gained national recognition; each year, organizations contact the shelter, wishing to emulate the efforts and programs made possible by the Furry 5K, which provides well over half the money for the Fund - ensuring the continued care of hundreds of needy animals every year. The Fund makes it possible for our animals to receive extraordinary vet care, to be saved from cruel, abusive situations and to receive toys and treats to make their shelter stays more comfortable. The Fund also enables shelter officers to provide educational outreach to the community, such as promoting responsible pet ownership and animal safety.

Besides our participants, who through their registration fees, pledges, and donations raised over \$65,000, we would like to thank our sponsors whose support is crucial to the event.

For the past two years, PED Shoes at 1115 1st Avenue has been our biggest sponsor, raising over \$16,000 to support the Fund. They have held special sales events where all proceeds were donated to the Fund. This year one of the animal shelter's volunteers held a charity auction that raised almost \$5,000 on behalf of the animals. These two examples show that you don't have to be a big corporation to make a huge impact.

## THANKS! On Behalf of the Animals

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue of the HOWLER. Special thanks to SAS volunteer Barbara Crummins for her design and layout, to North Seattle Community College for their continued support of the SAS volunteer/foster care program, and to Penelope Kern for contributions as editor. You are greatly appreciated.



In addition to these major sponsors, we've had a number of companies that have been consistent supporters of the Furry 5K every year. The Animal Surgical Clinic, through their generous discounts in services and gifts to the Fund, PETCO through the sponsorship of special events at their stores, donations and gifts, and Taco Del Mar, through their gifts and generous donations, deserve special mention for the efforts that they have made each year.

An event like the Furry 5K could not be managed without some key service providers. Talking Rain has been critical to our event through their donation water and sports drinks for participants. Oldies 97.3 KBSG has been a key supporter through on-air promotions and for the past two years, DJ Randy Lundquist has been the MC at the race. Additionally, companies like CLIF Bar have provided much needed after-race snacks.

And we would like to salute Northwest Runner - the region's leading runner's magazine - that has featured our event on their cover and run articles highlighting the Furry 5K. Their early support and enthusiasm helped make the Furry 5K a success.

Companies like Bon-Macy's and organizations like Girls on the Run have also promoted the Furry 5K through the teams they organize. The impact of the many participants they contribute cannot be underestimated and is something we greatly appreciate and want to recognize.

*continued on pg 12...*

*For upcoming events visit our web site  
and click on Calendar of Events at  
[www.seattleanimalshelter.org](http://www.seattleanimalshelter.org)*



*Furry 5K - continued from page 11*

There are many companies that have helped in other ways, through funds, prizes, product donations, or by their presence as a vendor at our event. We'd like to thank Petfinder.com and MyRaceDay.com; and the many other companies that gave to make our event a success: Hotel Monaco of Seattle, PJ's Paws and Claws, Mercedes-Benz Barrier Motors, Wright Runstad & Company; Dogi Pot; Curves of Magnolia; Pet Vacations; Advantage NW Sales; Spike Brand; Ahimsa Dog Training; Paws with No Flaws; Fur-de-Lis Pet Care; Wild Reiki & Shamanic Healing; Darwin's Natural Pet Products; Enrid Groves (local artist); Seattle Storm; Rain City Yoga; Cowbelly Pet Photography (local photographer); Canine Hardware Inc.; Museum Quality Framing; Nintendo; VanPak; Pacific Science Center; Seattle Opera; Central Bark; Dog's Day Out; Downtown Dog Lounge; Pacific Northwest Ballet; Dex; Windermere Real Estate's Sue Churchill; Seattle Veterinary Association; Greenlake Animal Hospital; 2 Dogs & A Cat; Two Dog Yoga Studio; Landmark Theaters; The Bae Law Group; Hale's Ales, Grand Central Bakery; Xtreme Sports Leash; Puppingtons; Essenza; Verite Coffee; Hullabaloo Books; Hales Ales; Volt Information Sciences; Ben & Jerry's; and Seattle's Best Canines.

*Pet population- Please spay! - continued from page 2*

"Seattle faces a pet overpopulation problem. Thousands of orphaned animals are needlessly euthanized each year in this region simply because there aren't enough homes for them," says SAS Director Jordan. "We can address this problem by spaying and neutering companion animals. By ending unwanted births, we reduce the needless suffering orphaned animals endure, and ultimately improve the quality of life for people and animals in our community. And as long as citizens continue to support the fund, the offer will continue indefinitely."

**ANIMAL WISH LIST**

- Towels
- Blankets
- Rugs
- Canned cat and dog food
- KMR - kitten milk replacement
- Iams biscuits
- Iams dry dog & Cat foods
- Kong balls
- Nylabones
- Crates (any sizes)
- Snuggle-Safe pads (to keep kittens warm)
- Cat toys
- Small sized cat litter boxes

All of these items can be purchased from your local pet supply store.

THANK YOU!!



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